



# NEWS RELEASE

VirginiaDOT.org

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE  
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## ROAD CONDITIONS IMPROVING IN SHENANDOAH VALLEY

STAUNTON – (12:30 p.m.) Most roads are in minor to moderate condition after rain mixed with sleet and freezing rain fell over the Shenandoah Valley. Conditions are improving with the rise in temperature. The Virginia Department of Transportation advises motorists to use caution as icy patches do exist.

Crews have been monitoring and treating roads this morning and will continue to as long as conditions are present.

Motorists are reminded that ice and freezing rain conditions can still produce hazardous driving conditions, even when roads are treated. People should not drive unless absolutely necessary.

### Driving Tips

VDOT reminds motorists to use caution when driving during wintry weather. Drivers should:

- Check road conditions before you leave home by calling 511 or logging in to [511Virginia.org](http://511Virginia.org)
- Slow down and allow for extra time to reach your destination
- Be aware of potentially icy areas such as shady spots and bridges
- Keep a safe distance of at least five seconds behind other vehicles and trucks that are plowing the road
- Do not pass a snowplow or spreader unless it is *absolutely* necessary

### Motorist Resources

VDOT has a variety of information sources for road condition updates. The 511 traveler-information service gives drivers the most up-to-date data available about weather, construction and accidents that may affect travel. Updates can be received by calling 511 from any landline or

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wireless phone or by going online to [www.511virginia.org](http://www.511virginia.org) to view traffic cameras, the road condition map and the road condition table-report. Individuals can sign up for e-mail alerts that include weather and incident reporting on the 511 Web site.

For overall winter weather information, VDOT's Web site includes frequently asked questions, driving tips and tools for motorists to learn more about VDOT's winter preparedness at <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/snow.asp>.

Drivers can also view videos detailing how VDOT prepares for winter weather and address snow and ice on You Tube. Snow videos are posted at <http://www.youtube.com/user/vdotweb#grid/user/84A0942814F2FECC>

For more information about Virginia's efforts to prepare for winter weather and other emergencies, visit [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov). The National Weather Service, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Social Services and other state agencies have created the "Ready Virginia" resource to provide residents and visitors with a one-stop shop for emergency preparedness tips and information.

The VDOT Staunton District serves Frederick, Shenandoah, Clarke, Warren, Page, Rockingham, Augusta, Highland, Rockbridge, Alleghany and Bath counties.

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Closed – Roadway is closed; impassable

Severe – Significant accumulations of snow or ice blocking the roadway; conditions are hazardous

Moderate – Snow or ice covering a major portion of the roadway; passable with caution

Minor – Advisory, potential for icy patches or snow on roadway; passable with caution

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